

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Edward Buttrey, on March 13, 2015 at 8:00 AM, in Room 422
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Edward Buttrey, Chair (R)
Sen. Elsie Arntzen, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Pat Connell (R)
Sen. Tom Facey (D)
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D) (arrived after roll call)
Sen. Gordon Vance (R) (arrived after roll call)
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)
Sen. Lea Whitford (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Cary Smith (R)
Sen. Dee Brown (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Linda Keim, Committee Secretary
Jameson Walker, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 240, 2/25/2015; HB 44, 2/25/2015; HB 119, 2/25/2015

HEARING ON HB 240

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:30 Rep. Tom Berry (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 240. Revise laws related to fee charges for surplus lines property/casualty insurance.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:40 Bob Biskupiak, Independent Insurance Agents Association of Montana Inc. (IIAAM)

[EXHIBIT\(bus52a01\)](#)

00:09:00 Scott Tuxbury, Surplus Lines industry, Big Sky Underwriters (BSU)

[EXHIBIT\(bus52a02\)](#)

00:12:00 Kevin Messner, self, Big Sky Underwriters

00:13:05 Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:14:04 Jesse Laslovich, Office of Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Montana State Auditor (CSI)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:14:30 Sen. Whitford
00:14:34 Rep. Berry
00:16:02 Sen. Whitford
00:18:12 Mr. Biskupiak, IIAAM
00:18:48 Sen. Arntzen
00:20:32 Mr. Biskupiak
00:21:06 Chairman Buttrey
00:22:01 Mr. Tuxbury, BSU
00:22:56 Chairman Buttrey
00:23:47 Mr. Laslovich, CSI (redirect)
00:24:00 Chairman Buttrey
00:24:04 Mr. Tuxbury
00:25:08 Chairman Buttrey
00:25:15 Rep. Berry
00:25:30 Sen. Vance
00:25:39 Mr. Laslovich

Closing by Sponsor:

00:26:32 Rep. Berry

HEARING ON HB 44

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:27:51 Rep. Tom Berry (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 44. Revise license terms for board of public accountants.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:28:23 Dan Vuckovich, CPA, member, Montana Board of Public Accountants (MBPA)
[EXHIBIT\(bus52a03\)](#)

00:36:14 Holly Franz, Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:38:21 Grace Berger, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
[EXHIBIT\(bus52a04\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:38:53 Chairman Buttrey
00:43:07 Mr. Vuckovich, MBPA
00:43:23 Sen. Facey
00:43:42 Mr. Vuckovich
00:43:53 Sen. Connell
00:44:25 Mr. Vuckovich
00:44:56 Sen. Arntzen
00:46:03 Mr. Vuckovich (redirect)
00:47:48 Ms. Berger, DLI
00:48:06 Sen. Whitford
00:50:44 Mr. Vuckovich
00:51:14 Chairman Buttrey
00:51:20 Mr. Vuckovich
00:51:48 Sen. Arntzen
00:51:53 Ms. Berger

Closing by Sponsor:

00:52:43 Rep. Berry
00:53:42 Mr. Vuckovich

HEARING ON HB 119

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:54:22 Rep. Tom Berry (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 119. Update insurance laws to meet NAIC accreditation standards.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:57:11 Jesse Laslovich, Office of Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Montana
State Auditor (CSI)

[EXHIBIT\(bus52a05\)](#)

01:04:10 Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association, American Council of Life
Insurers, and American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus; also
speaking for Dwight Easton, Farmers Insurance Group, Greg Van Horssen,
State Farm Insurance; Bruce Spencer, America's Health Insurance Plans,
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America; and Blue Cross, Blue Shield
of Montana

[EXHIBIT\(bus52a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(bus52a07\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:12:20 Sen. Facey
01:16:25 Ms. Lenmark, AIA
01:16:50 Mr. Laslovich, CSI
01:17:28 Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
01:18:24 Mr. Laslovich
01:18:35 Sen. Facey
01:20:49 Steve Matthews, chief financial examiner, Department of Labor and Industry
(DLI)
01:21:07 Sen. Arntzen
01:22:35 Mr. Laslovich
01:23:00 Chairman Buttrey
01:23:23 Mr. Laslovich

Closing by Sponsor:

01:23:28 Rep. Berry

01:24:01 Chairman Buttrey
01:24:09 Sen. Facey
01:24:51 Chairman Buttrey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:30 A.M.

Linda Keim, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([bus52aad.pdf](#))